

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00459 260931Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 STE-01 /012 W

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P 270730Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 304

US DESPATCH AGENT NEWYORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS DJIBOUTI 0459

FOR AF/EX/PMO

TAGS: AFSP, ASUP, EWWT

SUBJ: CONTAINER SHELL GAME, PART II

REF: DJIBOUTI 307

1. DESPITE WARM APOLOGIES FROM SHIPPING COMPANY FOR INCREDIBLE MISREPRESENTATIONS INVOLVED IN SHIPPING OUR CONTAINER FULL OF AIRCONDITIONERS, KITCHEN EQUIPMENT, ETC., THE SAGA OF THE MISSING CONTAINER APPEARS FAR FROM CONCLUDED. WITHOUT GOING INTO ALL OF THE FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL INQUIRIES THAT THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN FORCED TO GO INTO AS A RESULT OF THE MISLEADING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE ORIGINAL SHIPPING COMPANY, WE CAN ONLY REPORT THAT THE CONTAINER IS STILL MISSING, THAT THE ZIM LINE AGENT IN ASSAB COMPLAINS THAT THE SHIPPING COMPANY DID NOT PROVIDE NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION FOR FORWARDING THE CONTAINER(EVEN IF FOUND) AND THAT WE ARE NO BETTER OFF THAN WE WERE WHEN WE SENT OUR FIRST PROTESTING MESSAGE ON 15 AUGUST.

2. THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE INTERESTED TO NOTE THAT WE HAVE TRACED THE SHIPMENT FROM NEW YORK TO ROTTERDAM TO HAIFA BY SEA, HAIFA TO EILAT OVERLAND AND TO ASSAB BY AN UNKNOWN SHIPPER, AND FROM THERE, OF COURSE, THERE IS A COLD TRAIL.

3. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED CONTACT ORIGINAL SHIPPER AND DETERMINE:
(A) ACTUAL LOCATION OF CONTAINER (WE KEEP GETTING REPORT THAT
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IT MAY NOT BE IN ASSAB), (B) LOCATION OF CONTAINER TRANSFER DOCUMENTS, (C) REPORT OF INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN FORWARDING AGENT, AND (D) A CLEAR COMMITMENT THAT CARGO WILL BE RELEASED TO FIRST AVAILABLE SHIP RUNNING ASSAB-DJIBOUTI.

4. POST WOULD LIKE SOMEONE IN THE NEW YORK DESPATCH AGENCY TO GIVE THIS MATTER CLOSE PERSONAL ATTENTION AND PROVIDE THE

EMBASSY WITH SOME WRITTEN EXPLANATIONS. NO ONE HAS APPARENTLY BOTHERED TO LOOK INTO THE PRACTICAL EFFECTS OF THE MISCALCULATION OF RELEASING THE CONTAINER IN QUESTION TO A COMPANY WHICH CANNOT DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION. WITHOUT AIR CONDITIONERS, REFRIGERATORS, FREEZERS, MODERN STOVES AND THE OTHER APPLIANCES CONTAINED IN THIS SHIPMENT, THE EMBASSY IS QUITE INCAPABLE OF PROVIDING FOR THE BASIS NEEDS OF THE TWO FAMILIES NOW ON PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT IN DJIBOUTI. AVERAGE DAILY HIGH TEMPERATURES IN DJIBOUTI ARE NOW DOWN TO ABOUT 110 DEGREES, MARKING THE BEGINNING OF THE COOL SEASON, HOWEVER, WE ARE QUITE BITTER ABOUT THE OFFHAND WAY THIS MATTER HAS BEEN HANDLED, AND WE WONDER NOW IF WE WILL EVER SEE THE SHIPMENT IN QUESTION. CLARKE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 27-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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